

Sharing news about translating the Word of God into Quiatoni Zapotec

The Quiatoni Crier

Sept 2023

Hearing God's Word in Their Own Language

When we were studying Acts in the Zapotec church service, Beto pointed out that Paul spoke Greek to the commanding officer to ask permission to speak to the Jews (in Acts 21:37), but when Paul spoke to the Jews, he spoke in their own language (Acts 21:40-22:2). Beto said, "And that's why God's Word is being translated into our language. God wants us to really understand His Word."

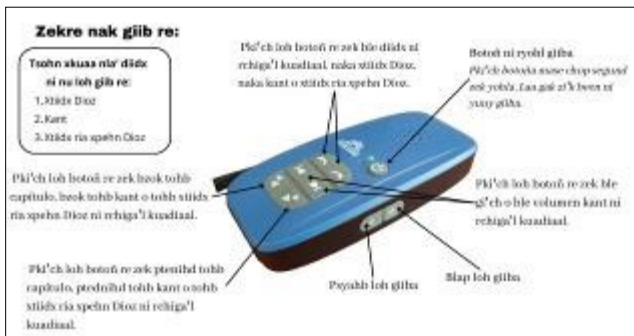
As we shared in our last newsletter, some of the Quiatoni pastors are catching the vision of using their own language to share God's Word and His salvation with those who speak Quiatoni Zapotec.

In our third meeting with the Quiatoni pastors, Nicasio asked them, "Why do we need to be able to read and write in Zapotec?" One pastor answered, "I'm not a (native) Spanish speaker so it helps me understand the Bible and I can preach better. And we can be sure it's the truth that we're saying." Another pastor said, "It's a tool for us to use to evangelize and preach better. We need to have our tools ready ahead of time; we need to sharpen the machetes that we already have!"

We are happy to help supply some of the tools! The reading and writing classes helped give the pastors and others confidence that they can read Zapotec well, out loud and in public.

We also decided to put all our Zapotec Bible materials on USB drives so people can listen, read them on the screen or print them, as well as watch the Jesus film.

Another tool that we have been able to pass on to people are 200 Kulumi audio devices, given to us free of charge by The Cahaya Foundation (www.thecahayafoundation.org).



The Quiatoni Zapotec materials available are the Gospel of John, Acts, Romans, Galatians, Philippians and Hebrews; three volumes of

songs and choruses; 15 Old Testament stories that can be seen as videos or read on the USB drives; on the Kulumis, they are audios. The stories are from Genesis as well as Joshua taking over for Moses, and Jonah. Beto and Candy are working on more Old Testament stories, which we will include when they are done.



Learning to use the Kulumi

In our last meeting with the pastors, we gave each pastor and assistant pastor a Kulumi and, through them, however many each pastor thought his church would use for evangelism and/or to strengthen those who already believe.

We are praising God for how He is using these tools in people's lives:

Josefina lives in one of Quiatoni's smaller towns; she's the assistant pastor to her father. She has distributed the Kulumis that the church received at the last meeting with the pastors—and asked for 10 more to share with more people!

Candy told me how Beto was teaching her dad how to use the Kulumi but he was frustrated and sure he'd never learn. They encouraged him, "You said that about using your cell phone and look how you can use it now! If you learn a little bit, you'll soon know it all." Then when he went home to Quiatoni in a small bus, the driver asked him if he didn't have something they could listen to. He lent them the Kulumi to connect to the radio speakers and they listened to the Gospel of John the whole two hour trip to Quiatoni.

Since Sofia and her daughter Rebeca have been coming to the Zapotec service, Sofia's confidence about sharing her faith in Jesus has blossomed; she loves to share Jesus and the Zapotec materials with people. Rebeca says that her mom keeps giving away the USB drives with that Rebeca gives her to listen to the Zapotec materials!

Rebeca also loves to promote the use of Zapotec and the materials in Zapotec. She

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recently asked Nicasio for three more USB drives, two to have on hand when people ask for them* and one for a lady who is not yet a believer. This lady had heard what Rebeca was listening to and wanted one for herself.

María, who comes to the Zapotec church service, says that she listens to the Zapotec recordings a lot and that they are helping her grow spiritually.

Miguel, who recently started attending the

Zapotec service, told Nicasio that he went to visit friends and showed them the Kulumi. He ended up giving it to them and inviting them to the Zapotec church service.

♥ Thank God with us for the interest in hearing and sharing God’s Word in Quiatoni Zapotec! Honestly, when we were beginning to translate the Gospel of Mark, we wondered if the pastors would ever be interested in using it. So we are very thankful for their interest.

Speaking of Starting Translation...

In 1992, we were translating the Gospel of Mark and when we visited Quiatoni, Nicasio checked it with his cousin Gul and his friend Melesio.



Melesio reading Mark, August 2023

It was fun to meet up with Melesio again during the last meeting with the pastors. It was even more fun to watch him read a published copy of the Gospel of Mark!



Nicasio, Melesio, and Gul in 1992

And Speaking of Reading...

It’s more fun to read when you understand what you are reading! Rebeca had a little “store” during the last pastors meeting. (That’s her lap on the bottom right of the photo.) She showed people the materials she thought they’d be interested in, answered questions and encouraged them to try reading in Zapotec.

We are thankful for Rebeca, her love of Zapotec and how she promotes it.



Family

I (Valerie) am currently with Mike and Tara, helping to care for Royan (2.5 years old), while they sort, pack and get everything ready to move out of their house and have everything ready for their move to Oaxaca. I’ll be riding with them to Oaxaca, too!

We had fun celebrating Rusty’s 29th birthday!

We miss Nicasio, of course, but he has some big things happening. He has helped organize an event to celebrate the UN’s International Decade of Indigenous



Languages and he will be one of the emcees for the event as well as giving a talk on how indigenous people’s identity has been damaged over the years since the Europeans arrived in the Americas. Candy and Beto will give a talk about the “big books” they make to share Bible stories with children. Nicasio has also arranged for a lady from Quiatoni to have a table where she will be embroidering a traditional Quiatoni blouse and available to talk with people and have some articles for sale.

Nicasio is teaching in the Master’s Degree program this semester, besides continuing to work on the translation, be the youth pastor and teaching in the Zapotec church service. The end of November, he, Beto and Candy will be making presentations in Colombia!

♥ Thank you for praying for all our family! We appreciate your prayers for our drive to Oaxaca, for Nicasio and me as we are apart and especially for Nicasio as he prepares for these events.



Nicasio showing his mom how to use her new Kulumi. She loves listening to it!

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Let us know, at this email address, if you’d like to receive our monthly email with an update and prayer requests.